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**Der Kanal von Calamotta.** 44 pp. and 12 plates. Druck und Verlag von Heinr. Mercy Sohn, Prague, 1910.

The Calamotta Channel is one of the many channels along the Adriatic coast between Fiume and Ragussa. The description of the channel is geographically excellent and the photo-engravings are superb. Like other books issued under the patronage of Prince Ludwig Salvator, no expense has been spared in making this large octavo a sumptuous example of book work.

**La Catastrofe Sismica Calabro Messinese (28 Dicembre, 1908.)**

By Mario Baratta. xv and 426 pp., thirty plates of engravings, other illustrations and appendix. With volume of maps, diagrams, etc. Presso La Societa Geografica Italiana, Rome, 1910.

This record of the earthquake of Dec. 28, 1908, in Southern Italy and Sicily, issued by the Italian Geographical Society, will stand as an authoritative history and an adequate description and discussion of that catastrophe. The work is divided into four parts, dealing with (1) observations upon the regions affected, (2) the place of origin, nature and effects of the shocks, (3) earthquake sea waves and their effects along the coasts and (4) comparisons with other great Calabrian earthquakes and conclusions.

**I danni prodotti dai terremoti nella Basilicata e nelle Calabrie.**

Prof. G. Mercalli. Estratto dalla Relazione della Sotto Gintta parlamentare d'inchiesta sulla condizioni dei contadini nelle provincie meridionali e nella Sicilia. Vol. V—Tomo III, *Basilicata e Calabria*. 17 pp. Tipografia Nazionale di G. Bertero E. C., Roma, 1910.

Contains lists of earthquakes that have been recorded as occurring in Basilicata (Province of Potenza) and in Calabria. Data concerning many of these earthquakes are briefly given.

### POLAR

**British Antarctic Expedition, 1907-'09.** Under the command of Sir E. H.

Shackleton, C.V.O. Reports of the scientific investigations. Vol. I, Biology. Editor, James Murray. Parts i to iv. 79 pp., 13 plates and figures in the text. William Heinemann, London, 1910. 12s. 6d.

Mr. Murray contributes papers, Parts I-III, "Collecting at Cape Royds," "Microscopic Life at Cape Royds," "Antarctic *Rotifera*"; and Mr. Jules Cardot supplies Part IV, "Musi." There are five lakes in the neighborhood of Cape Royds, in which dredging yielded important results, though the bay near which the explorers were in camp was their customary dredging ground. The collecting that could be done on land was of small importance. The most prolific source of fresh-water life was a plant found embedded in the ice of nearly all the lakes. Microscopic life swarmed on this weed, and thus multitudes of living things for study were obtained.

In the sea dredging carried on chiefly in the bay, the bottom seemed to be covered by a carpet of living things, including sponges, sea-spiders, lace-corals, holothurians, file-shells, star-fish and many others. Very little plankton collecting could be done in McMurdo Sound. It was somewhat of a surprise to find an abundant microscopic fauna and flora at Cape Royds. These animals are not at all troubled by the rigors of the climate. "When the cold comes they curl up and go to sleep, it may be for years, and when the thaw occurs they go mer-

rily on as though nothing had happened." Among the higher invertebrata the rotifers are easily first in number, both of individuals and species. A preliminary account is given of the microscopic life.

Mr. Murray says of the distribution of *Rotifera*:

"The *Rotifera* share with the lowest forms of life that facility for distribution which makes them, as Jennings puts it, "potentially cosmopolitan." The agent of distribution is the wind. When some rotifers and the eggs of others are dried they may be blown in the form of dust for long distances. There is no difficulty in supposing the Antarctic peopled in this way, though there is no region where such distances of sea must be crossed in the process; but all round the Antarctic continent the storm-winds generally blow off the land, and so could play no part in bringing a rotifer population to the country."

**National Antarctic Expedition, 1901-1904.** Meteorology, Part 1. Observations at Winter Quarters and on Sledge Journeys, with Discussions by various authors. Prepared under the superintendence of W. N. Shaw, the Director of the Meteorological Office, with the co-operation of a committee of the Royal Society. The Royal Society, London, 1903.

Contains the chief part of the results of the meteorological observations made in connection with the voyage of the *Discovery* of the British National Antarctic Expedition, under command of Capt. R. F. Scott, R. N., 1901-1904. The data of the observations at winter quarters and on the sledge journeys fill a large part of the volume (pp. 17-364) and are accompanied by the maps of Lieut. Mulock, made for the Royal Geographical Society to illustrate the geographical positions. Tables of results for other expeditions are given for the purpose of comparison. A number of papers based upon the observations are included in the volume, among which are: "Climatology of South Victoria Land and the Neighboring Seas," by Capt. Campbell Hepworth; "Notes on the Observations of Temperature at the Winter Quarters of the *Discovery*"; and "Notes on the Observations of Barometric Pressure," by R. H. Curtis.

**Rapport sur l'Expédition Polaire Néerlandaise qui a Hiverné dans la mer de Kara en 1882-83.** Commencé par M. Snellen, et fini par H. Exama. J. Van Boekhoven, Utrecht, 1910.

This expedition was one of those sent out to establish the international, circumpolar stations in the Arctic for the purpose of taking simultaneous meteorological and magnetic observations on all sides of the North Polar area. The Dutch expedition had the misfortune to lose its vessel, which was crushed in the ice of the Kara Sea. The calamity did not, however, defeat the scientific purposes for which the party was sent North, and it was able to make continuous meteorological observations from August, 1882, to July, 1883. An account of the expedition appeared years ago in Dutch; and it will be gratifying to all who sympathized with these brave men in their misfortunes to learn that they at last secured the funds needed to produce this well-printed and finely illustrated account of their expedition and of its scientific results.

#### ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

**The Story of Oil.** By Walter Sheldon Tower. xii and 271 pp. and illustrations. D. Appleton & Co., New York, 1909. \$1.

Within recent years a number of American writers have rendered valuable service by enriching the voluminous literature dealing with the world's most im-